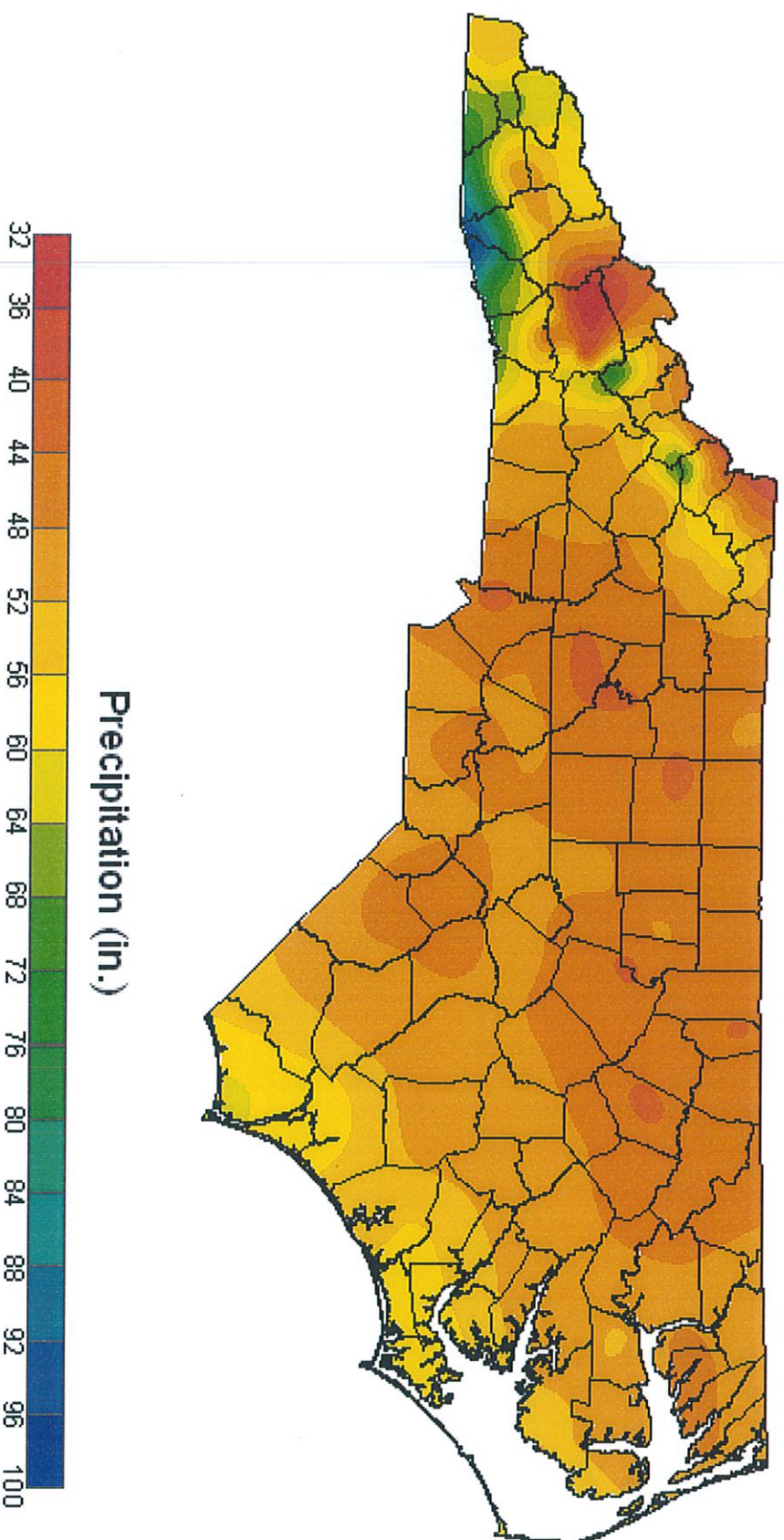



Normal Precipitation


Based on 1971-2000 normals

Annual





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Wilmington, NC




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2011 Weather and Climate Year in Review

Here is the 2011 Weather and Climate Summary for Southeastern North Carolina and Northeastern South Carolina including the cities of Wilmington, Florence, Myrtle Beach and Lumberton.

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILMINGTON NC
1106 AM EST MON JAN 2 2012

...2011 WEATHER AND CLIMATE YEAR IN REVIEW...

.SYNOPSIS...
MUCH LIKE 2010...2011 WILL BE REMEMBERED AS ANOTHER YEAR WITH VERY LARGE TEMPERATURE EXTREMES FROM WINTER TO SUMMER. YEAR BEGAN WITH A CONTINUATION OF THE EXTREME COLD EXPERIENCED IN DECEMBER 2010. SPRING ARRIVED ON-SCHEDULE AND BROUGHT WIDESPREAD SEVERE WEATHER INCLUDING TWO LARGE MULTI-STATE TORNADO OUTBREAKS THAT AFFECTED THE EASTERN CAROLINAS. SUMMER WAS HOT AND DRY AND WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN DRIER HAD HURRICANE IRENE NOT AFFECTED THE COAST IN AUGUST. DROUGHT WORSENERD THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER WITH NO RELIEF EXPERIENCED INTO THE FALL AND WINTER MONTHS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WELL-BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES IN JANUARY AND A COOL OCTOBER...2011 AVERAGED ABOVE NORMAL FOR TEMPERATURES.

.HIGHLIGHTS...
A LA NINA PATTERN WAS OVERWHELMED BY A PERSISTENTLY NEGATIVE NORTH ATLANTIC OSCILLATION (NAO) AND MADE JANUARY 2011 ONE OF THE COLDEST MONTHS ON RECORD FOR MUCH OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. FREEZING TEMPERATURES WERE RECORDED 23 TIMES DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY IN WILMINGTON AND 22 TIMES IN FLORENCE...ALMOST TWICE AS OFTEN AS IS NORMAL FOR BOTH CITIES. LOW PRESSURE MOVING EAST ALONG THE GULF COAST BROUGHT A SUBSTANTIAL SNOWFALL TO THE CAROLINAS JANUARY 10TH...WITH SNOW ACCUMULATIONS RANGING FROM AROUND 4 INCHES IN WILMINGTON TO AS MUCH AS 7 TO 9 INCHES FROM LUMBERTON INTO BENNETTSVILLE SC. SNOW CHANGED TO A PERIOD OF SLEET...THEN TO FREEZING RAIN BEFORE ENDING AS WARMER AIR BUILT IN ALOFT. HOWEVER VERY LITTLE SNOW OR ICE ACCUMULATED DURING THE STORM ALONG THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

THE WEATHER PATTERN SHIFTED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH WITH TEMPERATURES RETURNING TO NEAR-NORMAL. AS TEMPERATURES WARMED FURTHER DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL...SEVERE WEATHER BECAME WIDESPREAD ACROSS THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES. HAIL RANGING FROM GOLF BALL TO BASEBALL SIZE PELTED THE SOUTH CAROLINA PEE DEE REGION ON APRIL 9TH. INJURIES WERE REPORTED WHEN A TREE FELL ON A CAR NEAR CLYDE IN DARLINGTON COUNTY SC DURING THE SAME EVENT. A WIDESPREAD TORNADO OUTBREAK APRIL 16TH PRODUCED TWO DOZEN TORNADOES ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA...INCLUDING CONFIRMED TOUCHDOWNS IN ROBESON...BLADEN...AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES. AN EF-2 TORNADO WITH ESTIMATED 130 MPH WINDS NEAR AMMON IN BLADEN COUNTY KILLED 3 PEOPLE AND DAMAGED THREE HOMES AND SEVERAL OTHER BUILDINGS. AN EF-2 TORNADO IN BLADENBORO KILLED 1 PERSON AND DAMAGED MULTIPLE BUILDINGS IN TOWN...THEN CONTINUED ON A 14-MILE PATH DAMAGING AND DESTROYING HOMES AND OTHER STRUCTURES. AN EF-1 TORNADO WITH ESTIMATED 105 MPH WINDS INJURED 3 PEOPLE NEAR LITTLE ROCK IN DILLON COUNTY SC.

PERHAPS THE LARGEST TORNADO OUTBREAK IN RECORDED HISTORY OCCURRED APRIL 25-28 AND KILLED OVER 300 PEOPLE ACROSS THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES. ON APRIL 28TH A SERIES OF FIVE TORNADOES TOUCHED DOWN ACROSS PORTIONS OF COLUMBUS AND PENDER COUNTIES...PRODUCING PROPERTY DAMAGE

BUT NO INJURIES. WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF WIND DAMAGE WERE ALSO RECEIVED...ALONG WITH A REPORT OF HAIL UP TO THE SIZE OF BASEBALLS NEAR CHADBOURN IN COLUMBUS COUNTY. THEN ON MAY 10TH...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPED DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH TRULY STAGGERING HAIL SIZES REPORTED. SOFTBALL SIZE (4.50 INCH DIAMETER) HAIL FELL IN CONWAY AND PAMPLICO SC. IF VERIFIED...THESE WOULD BE SOME OF THE LARGEST HAILSTONES ON RECORD IN SOUTH CAROLINA. MUCH DAMAGE TO VEHICLES FROM THE LARGE HAIL WAS REPORTED.

DRY AND HOT CONDITIONS DEVELOPED TOWARD THE END OF MAY AND PERSISTED THROUGH THE SUMMER. JUNE TEMPERATURES WERE 3 TO 6 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL WITH 1 TO 3 DEGREE POSITIVE DEPARTURES CONTINUING INTO JULY...NORMALLY OUR HOTTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR. TEMPERATURES ROSE 100 DEGREES OR HOTTER 7 TIMES IN WILMINGTON (TWICE IN JUNE...5 TIMES IN JULY) WHICH TIES WITH THE YEAR 1952 FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF 100+ DAYS IN ONE YEAR. MORE AND MORE OF THE REGION WAS CLASSIFIED IN SEVERE TO EXTREME DROUGHT (D2 TO D4) AS RAINFALL DEFICITS CONTINUED TO INCREASE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. THE DRY CONDITIONS LED TO SEVERAL LARGE WILDFIRES IN THE EASTERN CAROLINAS. THE LARGEST WERE THE JUNIPER ROAD FIRE IN THE HOLLY SHELTER SWAMP (31,100 ACRES)... THE HORNET FIRE IN HORRY COUNTY SC (1400 ACRES)...AND THE SIMMONS ROAD FIRE IN BLADEN COUNTY (5400 ACRES). THE SIMMONS ROAD FIRE DESTROYED THREE HOMES AND NUMEROUS OUTBUILDINGS.

HURRICANE IRENE WAS THE ONLY HURRICANE TO AFFECT THE REGION THIS YEAR. IRENE DEVELOPED ON AUGUST 21ST NEAR THE LESSER ANTILLES ISLANDS FROM A TROPICAL WAVE. THE STORM BECAME A MAJOR CATEGORY 3 HURRICANE WHILE MOVING INTO THE BAHAMAS...BUT WEAKENED TO A CATEGORY 1 STORM BEFORE MAKING LANDFALL EAST OF MOREHEAD CITY DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 27TH. PEAK WIND GUSTS REACHED 70 MPH AT WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH...66 MPH IN WILMINGTON...53 MPH IN SOUTHPORT... AND 45 MPH IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH. AN UNOFFICIAL GUST TO 68 MPH WAS REPORTED FROM BALD HEAD ISLAND. PORTIONS OF COASTAL SOUTHEAST NORTH CAROLINA PICKED UP 6-8 INCHES OF RAIN FROM THE STORM...ALTHOUGH WELCOME RAINFALL DID NOT EXTEND PARTICULARLY FAR INLAND.

DRIER THAN NORMAL CONDITIONS CONTINUED INTO THE FALL AND EARLY WINTER. BY THE END OF THE YEAR ANNUAL RAINFALL DEFICITS WERE APPROACHING 20 INCHES FROM GEORGETOWN THROUGH MYRTLE BEACH AND INTO BRUNSWICK COUNTY NC...AND MUCH OF THE REGION WAS CLASSIFIED IN MODERATE (D1) DROUGHT CONDITIONS. FLORENCE SC RECORDED THEIR SECOND DRIEST YEAR ON RECORD DATING BACK TO 1948. HAD HURRICANE IRENE NOT DROPPED HALF A FOOT OF RAIN ON WILMINGTON IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE 9TH DRIEST YEAR ON RECORD HERE. THE FIRST FALL FREEZE OCCURRED FOR INLAND AREAS ON OCTOBER 30TH...ONE TO TWO WEEKS EARLIER THAN NORMAL. DESPITE THE EARLY FREEZE...NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AVERAGED WARMER THAN NORMAL WITH DECEMBER TEMPERATURES RUNNING A VERY MILD 3-5 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL.

*** WILMINGTON NC 2011 CLIMATE DATA (PRELIMINARY) ***

	AVG HI/DEP	AVG LO/DEP	AVG T/DEP	WARMEST	COOLEST	PRECIP/DEP
JAN	49.9/-6.5	29.9/-5.7	39.9/-6.1	70/1ST	17/23RD	2.35/-1.41
FEB	60.9/+1.0	39.1/+1.2	50.0/+1.1	80/27TH	24/11TH	4.81/+1.19
MAR	65.6/-0.8	43.4/-0.4	54.5/-0.6	86/23RD+	31/29TH+	2.89/-1.32
APR	76.3/+2.1	54.3/+2.7	65.3/+2.4	90/20TH	35/3RD	0.86/-1.96
MAY	81.9/+1.2	60.8/+0.8	71.4/+1.0	91/31ST+	46/6TH	1.63/-2.86
JUN	91.6/+4.7	70.7/+2.0	81.1/+3.3	101/20TH	60/15TH	2.42/-2.76
JUL	92.1/+2.7	73.3/+0.7	82.7/+1.6	102/13TH	63/17TH	3.53/-3.95
AUG	90.0/+1.9	72.9/+1.6	81.5/+1.8	99/8TH	64/31ST	12.52/+5.11
SEP	83.7/+0.0	67.0/+1.4	75.3/+0.7	91/15TH+	59/16TH	7.46/-0.38
OCT	74.2/-1.5	53.1/-1.5	63.6/-1.6	86/17TH	34/30TH	1.93/-1.96
NOV	70.8/+2.8	45.8/+0.4	58.3/+1.6	80/22ND+	32/18TH+	2.97/-0.32
DEC	64.8/+5.5	40.5/+2.7	52.7/+4.1	78/22ND	28/19TH	0.59/-3.03
ANN	75.2/+1.1	54.2/+0.4	64.7/+0.7	102	17	43.96/-13.65 = 57.61"

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES...

90 DEGREES OR HIGHER: 59

32 DEGREES OR LOWER: 38

HEATING DEGREE DAYS: 2331

COOLING DEGREE DAYS: 2343

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH PRECIPITATION...

0.01 OR GREATER: 106

0.10 OR GREATER: 61

0.50 OR GREATER: 29

1.00 OR GREATER: 1

SNOW OR SLEET FELL ON 4 DAYS.

MEASURABLE SNOW FELL ON 2 DAYS (1/10 AND 1/22) TOTALLING 3.9 INCHES.

AVERAGE WIND SPEED: 7.3 MPH

MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND SPEED: 49 MPH ON 6/23

MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND GUST: 75 MPH ON 6/23

*** FLORENCE SC 2011 CLIMATE DATA (PRELIMINARY) ***

	AVG HI/DEP	AVG LO/DEP	AVG T/DEP	WARMEST	COOLEST	PRECIP/DEP
JAN	50.3/-5.0	29.5/-5.1	39.9/-5.0	73/30TH	16/23RD+	0.84/-2.32
FEB	63.6/+4.0	39.7/+2.2	51.6/+3.1	84/28TH	25/13TH+	3.87/+0.85
MAR	67.4/-0.2	43.9/+0.3	55.6/+0.0	86/22ND+	29/12TH	4.16/+0.83
APR	78.4/+2.6	52.9/+2.2	65.7/+2.4	87/27TH+	32/6TH	3.40/+0.78
MAY	83.4/+0.7	61.3/+1.9	72.3/+1.2	96/31ST	45/5TH	1.60/-1.66
JUN	94.4/+6.0	71.2/+3.2	82.8/+4.6	102/20TH	64/15TH+	0.30/-4.32
JUL	95.4/+4.4	72.7/+1.3	84.0/+2.8	102/22ND	65/18TH	4.73/-0.53
AUG	92.8/+3.4	70.8/+0.3	81.8/+1.9	100/8TH	64/16TH	2.74/-2.50
SEP	85.4/+1.2	65.1/+0.8	75.2/+1.0	94/15TH	57/17TH	2.95/-0.72
OCT	73.8/-1.7	49.2/-3.9	61.5/-2.8	87/17TH	31/30TH	1.57/-1.51
NOV	69.8/+2.7	42.8/-0.9	56.3/+0.9	84/16TH	29/18TH+	1.18/-1.49
DEC	64.5/+6.7	39.5/+3.0	52.0/+4.9	78/22ND	28/29TH	1.25/-1.76
ANN	76.6/+2.0	53.2/+0.4	64.9/+1.2	102	16	28.46/-14.45

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES...

90 DEGREES OR HIGHER: 98

32 DEGREES OR LOWER: 42

HEATING DEGREE DAYS: 2369

COOLING DEGREE DAYS: 2458

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH PRECIPITATION...

0.01 OR GREATER: 97

0.10 OR GREATER: 52

0.50 OR GREATER: 21

1.00 OR GREATER: 4

AVERAGE WIND SPEED: 6.5 MPH

MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND SPEED: 37 MPH ON 8/11

MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND GUST: 55 MPH ON 6/19

*** NORTH MYRTLE BEACH SC 2011 CLIMATE DATA (PRELIMINARY) ***

	AVG HI/DEP	AVG LO/DEP	AVG T/DEP	WARMEST	COOLEST	PRECIP/DEP
JAN	49.6/-5.5	31.2/-5.0	40.4/-5.3	68/2ND	17/23RD	1.63/-2.06
FEB	59.1/+1.7	40.5/+1.9	49.8/+1.8	73/19TH	27/13TH	4.28/+0.86
MAR	64.9/+0.8	44.2/-0.1	54.6/+0.4	85/23RD	32/12TH	3.40/-0.52
APR	72.8/+1.5	55.5/+3.6	64.2/+2.6	85/21ST	36/3RD	0.70/-2.26
MAY	78.2/-0.4	63.5/+2.7	70.9/+1.2	96/31ST	47/5TH	5.27/+1.86

JUN	87.5/+3.0	72.7/+3.4	80.1/+3.2	98/20TH	65/4TH	0.85/-3.79
JUL	88.7/+1.1	74.4/+1.3	81.5/+1.2	96/13TH	66/18TH+	2.97/-2.93
AUG	89.0/+2.9	73.4/+1.7	81.2/+2.3	98/2ND	66/31ST	4.54/-2.87
SEP	83.8/+0.4	67.7/+0.8	75.8/+0.7	88/10TH+	59/16TH	3.72/-2.56
OCT	74.0/-1.1	52.6/-3.1	63.3/-2.1	83/15TH	33/30TH	2.19/-1.69
NOV	69.0/+2.4	45.6/-0.8	57.3/+0.8	77/21ST+	30/12TH	2.90/-0.14
DEC	63.4/+4.9	41.1/+2.1	52.3/+3.5	76/16TH	30/29TH+	0.48/-2.98
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ANN	73.3/+0.9	55.2/+0.6	64.3/+0.8	98	17	32.93/-19.08

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES...

90 DEGREES OR HIGHER: 26

32 DEGREES OR LOWER: 32

HEATING DEGREE DAYS: 2351

COOLING DEGREE DAYS: 2204

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH PRECIPITATION...

0.01 OR GREATER: 92

0.10 OR GREATER: 55

0.50 OR GREATER: 24

1.00 OR GREATER: 8

AVERAGE WIND SPEED: 7.5 MPH

MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND SPEED: 36 MPH ON 12/27

MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND GUST: 49 MPH ON 8/26

*** LUMBERTON NC 2011 CLIMATE DATA (PRELIMINARY) ***

	AVG HI/DEP	AVG LO/DEP	AVG T/DEP	WARMEST	COOLEST	PRECIP/DEP
JAN	49.1/-4.6	28.7/-4.5	38.9/-4.5	71/30TH+	16/23RD	1.14/-1.86
FEB	62.1/+4.1	38.4/+2.8	50.2/+3.4	83/28TH	24/11TH	3.52/+0.62
MAR	65.2/-1.1	42.4/+0.4	53.8/-0.3	85/22ND	28/2ND	3.87/+0.54
APR	77.3/+2.8	51.1/+2.1	64.2/+2.5	87/24TH+	33/6TH+	1.95/-0.87
MAY	84.0/+1.9	59.8/+2.2	71.9/+2.1	99/31ST	45/6TH+	3.04/-0.01
JUN	93.4/+4.9	70.3/+2.9	81.8/+3.8	101/21ST	61/4TH	2.52/-1.82
JUL	93.9/+2.9	73.0/+1.7	83.5/+2.4	101/18TH+	66/18TH+	4.61/-0.87
AUG	91.8/+3.5	70.7/+1.0	81.3/+2.3	100/4TH+	64/31ST+	10.92/+5.42
SEP	84.3/+0.6	64.7/+2.3	74.5/+1.5	92/15TH	56/30TH	2.94/-1.86
OCT	73.4/-2.1	48.0/-3.3	60.7/-2.7	86/17TH	31/30TH	2.89/+0.32
NOV	68.6/+1.4	42.7/+1.3	55.7/+1.4	84/16TH	29/12TH	3.14/+0.27
DEC	62.5/+5.7	39.2/+3.6	50.8/+4.6	76/22ND+	27/29TH+	0.79/-2.10
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ANN	75.5/+1.6	52.4/+1.0	63.9/+1.3	101	16	41.33/-2.19

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES...

90 DEGREES OR HIGHER: 84

32 DEGREES OR LOWER: 52

HEATING DEGREE DAYS: 2600

COOLING DEGREE DAYS: 2321

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH PRECIPITATION...

0.01 OR GREATER: 108

0.10 OR GREATER: 73

0.50 OR GREATER: 28

1.00 OR GREATER: 8

AVERAGE WIND SPEED: 5.5 MPH

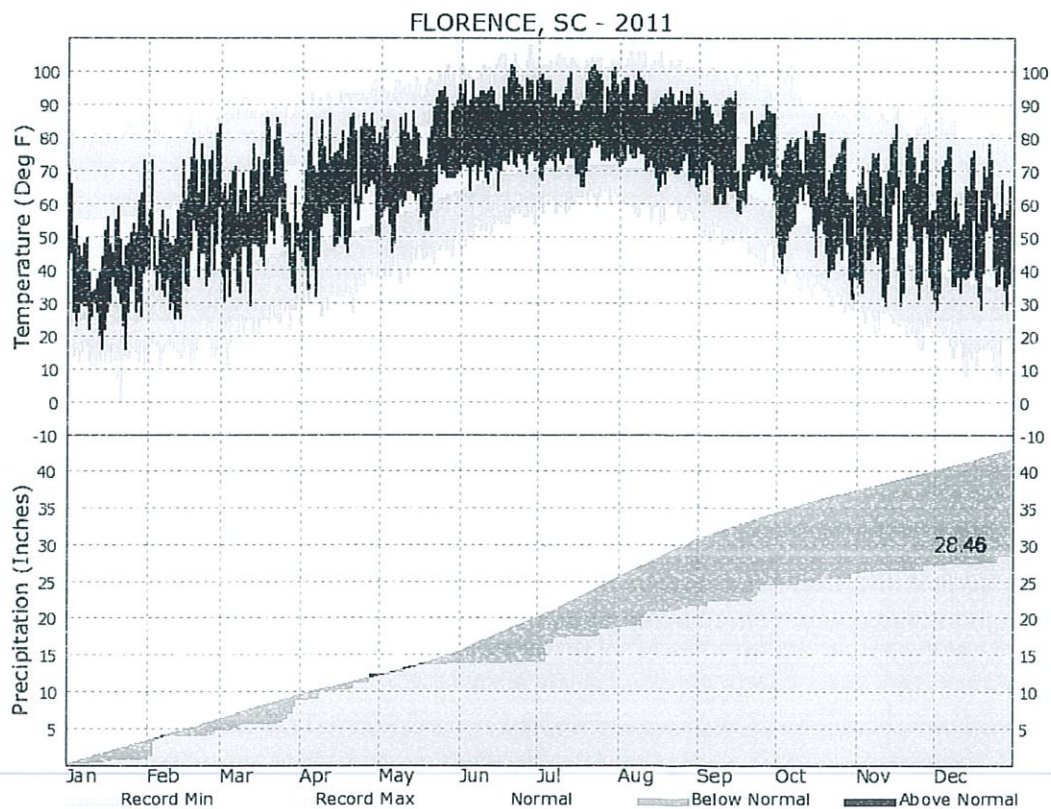
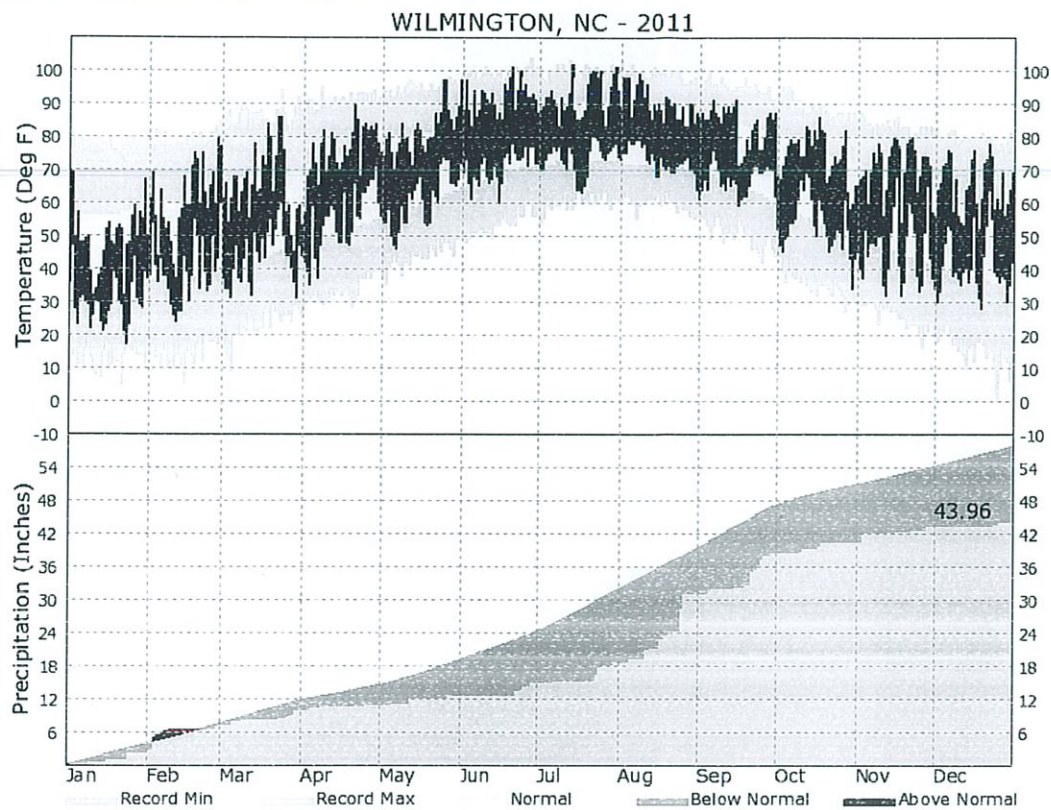
MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND SPEED: 39 MPH ON 12/07

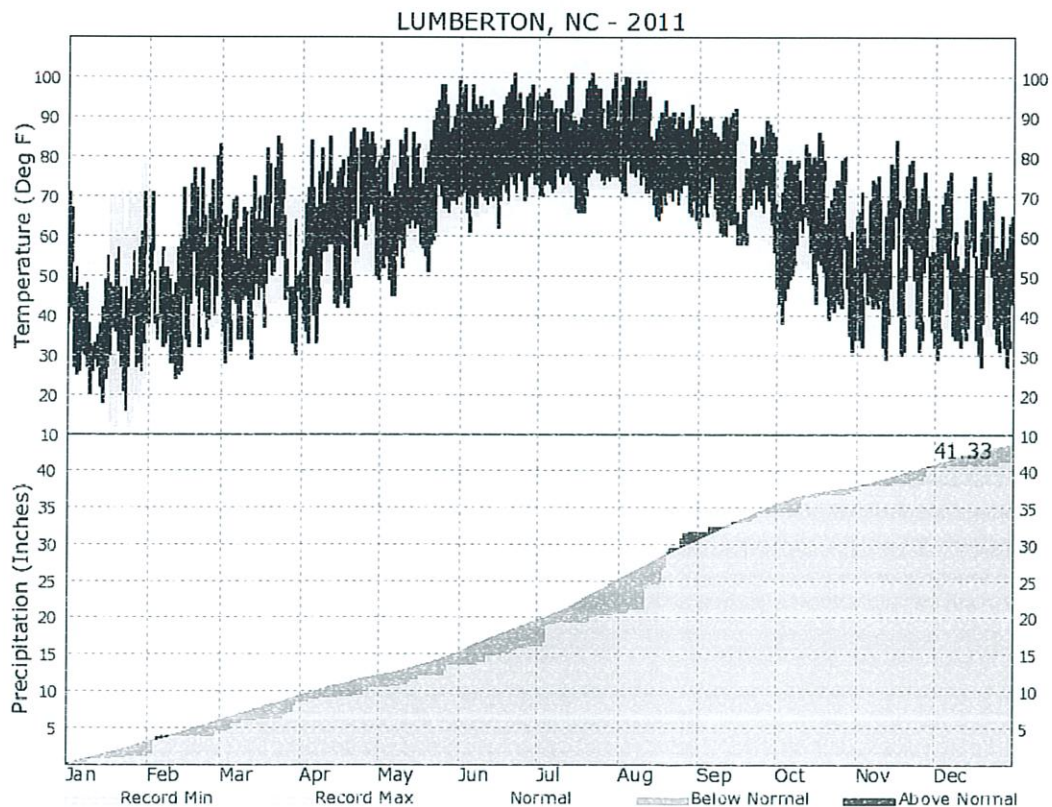
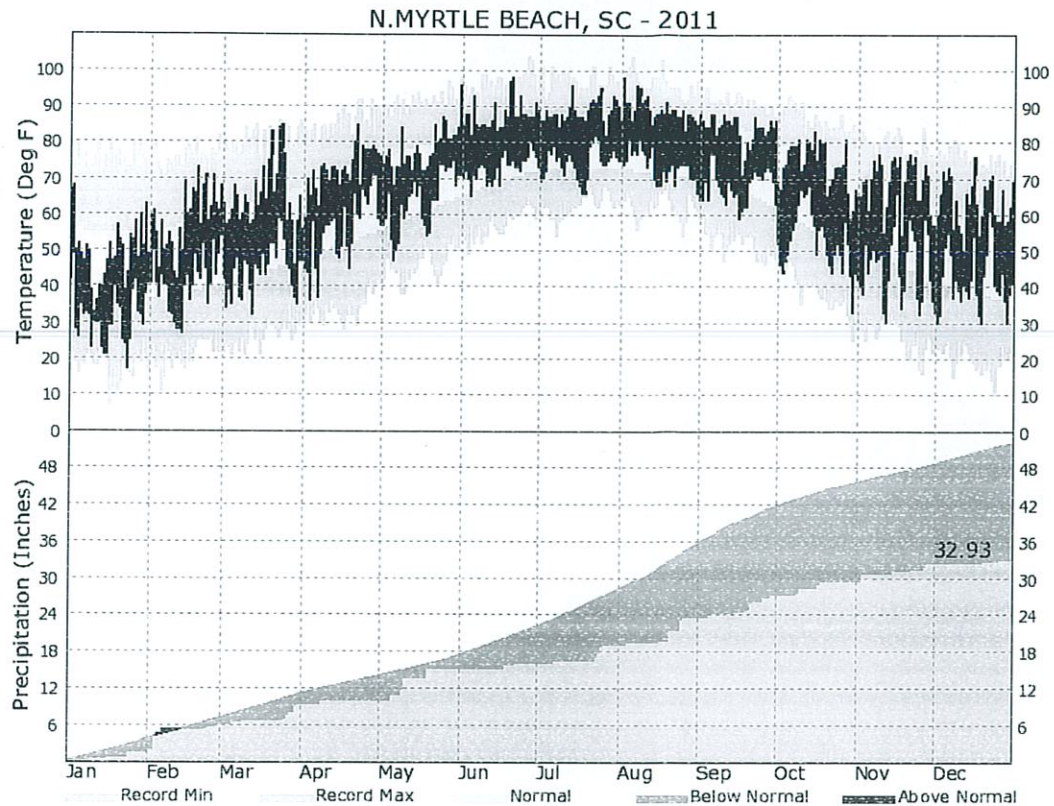
MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND GUST: 48 MPH ON 4/16

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2011 Annual Temperature/Precipitation Graphics:





Rainfall Graphics

☒ 2011 Rainfall Departure, Southeast US

2011 Rainfall Departure, Southeastern United States. Red colors indicate areas more than 12 inches below normal.

☒ 2011 Rainfall Departure, Carolinas

2011 Rainfall Departure, Carolinas. Red colors indicate areas more than 12 inches below normal, and dark red indicates areas more than 20 inches below normal.

☒ 2011 Rainfall Percent of Normal, Southeast US

2011 Rainfall Percent of Normal. Orange areas received less than 75 percent of normal rainfall.

☒ 2011 Rainfall Percent of Normal, Carolinas

2011 Rainfall Percent of Normal. Orange areas received less than 75 percent of normal rainfall.

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